

Application No.: 10/017,418

Attorney Docket No.: 10541-794

II. Remarks

Claims 9-13, 16, 17, 40-43, and 45 presently stand rejected on the basis of prior art. Reconsideration and further examination of claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 40-45 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 9-13, 16, 17, 40-43, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,586,110 issued to Obeshaw (Obeshaw).

The Applicants respectfully submit the attached Declaration of the Inventors Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which evidences the conception and reduction to practice of the subject matter of claims 9-13, 16, 17, 40-43, and 45 prior to July 7, 2000 (the effective filing date of the Obeshaw reference). The Applicants respectfully submit that Obeshaw is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under §102(e).

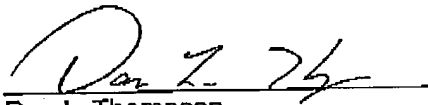
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Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 9-13, 16, 17, 40-43, and 45 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan L. Thompson
Registration No. 54,490
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(734) 302-6000